

**In The Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 3-9 with the following replacement paragraph:

In view of the foregoing, ~~we recognize that~~ there is a need for an improved process for selectively transforming symmetric diols into monoacetates. Furthermore, ~~we recognize that~~ in order for such a process to be commercially viable, it should eliminate the necessity for specialized equipment and expensive reagents and/or catalysts.